

DETAILED ACTION:**Claim status:**

Claims 1-31 and 33-34 are canceled. Claims 32 and 35-45 are pending.

Rule 131 declaration

In the present office action, JP 2001-043515 (JP '515) is relied upon. The effective date of this reference is its publication date of 2/16/2001. The filing date of the present application is 5/10/2001, thus the JP '515 reference is not available as prior art under 35 USC 102(b), and is therefore not a statutory bar.

Filed herewith is a rule 131 declaration showing conception of the claimed invention prior to 11/1/2000 and actual reduction to practice of the claimed invention prior to 11/1/2000. Thus both conception and actual reduction to practice of the claimed invention occurred prior to the effective date of the JP '515 reference.

Thus this reference is not available as prior art against the claimed invention as reduced to practice prior to 11/1/2000.

paragraph 3: claim rejections under 35 USC 102/103

Claims 32, 35-37, 39, and 44 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as anticipated by, or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over JP 2001-043515, hereinafter JP '515.

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With respect to claim 32, all of its limitations are present in the invention as reduced to practice before 11/1/2000, as shown by statements made in the rule 131 declaration filed herewith. As indicated above, the effective date of JP '515 is 2/16/2001. Therefore, JP '515 is not available as prior art against claim 32. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection of claim 32.

Claims 35-37, 39, and 44 depend from claim 32, so the above argument in connection with claim 32 is also responsive to this rejection of these claims.

paragraph 4: claim rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 32, 35-41 and 44 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over JP '515.

With respect to claim 32, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection of claim 32, since JP '515 is not available as prior art against claim 32 for the reasons given above.

Claims 35-41, and 44 depend from claim 32, so the above argument in connection with claim 32 is also responsive to this rejection of these claims.

paragraph 5: claim rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 32 and 35-44 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over JP '515 in view of the article "Chemistry of Ketel resist system

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and its lithographic performance" by Huang et al., hereinafter Huang.

With respect to claim 32, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection of claim 32, since JP '515 is not available as prior art against claim 32 for the reasons given above.

Claims 35-44 depend from claim 32, so the above argument in connection with claim 32 is also responsive to this rejection of these claims.

paragraph 6: claim rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 32, 35-41 and 44-45 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over JP '515 in view of discussion of prior art in the specification, hereinafter PA.

With respect to claim 32, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection of claim 32, since JP '515 is not available as prior art against claim 32 for the reasons given above.

Claims 35-41 and 44-45 depend from claim 32, so the above argument in connection with claim 32 is also responsive to this rejection of these claims.

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